The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Youthful Nimai Challenged by His Students

Scene One - In Nimai's Sanskrit grammar school

Narrator:Nimai is in His teens now. Once, the Lord had gone to Gaya to perform pinda for His departed father. There He took initiation from Ishvara Puri. When He returned home, He was a changed person. No longer was He Nimai Pandit, a big scholar, defeater of Keshava Kashmiri, but now He was a performer of sankirtan. One day, as He was conducting a class on Sanskrit grammar...

Nimai:Class, please take a break now while I speak with this learned astrologer, who has so kindly agreed to visit us. (students leave)

Nimai:Please come, my dear Brahmana, please be seated. Now, with your calculations, please ascertain what my previous birth was.

Brahmana:Yes, now let me see... This calculation is very strange. Are You sure about Your signs?

Nimai:Yes, positive. Tell Me what do you see?

Brahmana:Just a minute, let me double-check.

Nimai:Well, then, who was I in My previous birth?

Brahmana:My dear sir, in Your previous birth You were the shelter of all creation, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Your identity is inconceivable by my calculations.

Nimai:My dear sir, I think you do not know very clearly who I was, for I know that in My previous birth I was a cowherd boy. I was born in the family of cowherd men, and I gave protection to cows and calves. And because of My pious activities, I have now become the son of a brahmana.

Brahmana:What I saw in my meditation was full of opulences, so I was very much confused. I am certain that Your form and the form I saw in the meditation are one and the same. Whoever You are, I offer my humble obeisances unto You!

Nimai:I am very happy with you. (Brahmana goes off. Students come back) Alright, boys, today we will practice our grammar by glorifying Krishna, then we will have more kirtan.

Student 1:My dear teacher, how is it that now Your teaching is very different?

Student 2:Yes, it is always about Krishna.

Student 1:We are always chanting, not studying like we used to.

Student 2:Maybe we can massage Your head with coconut oil, which will sooth Your head.

Nimai: Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Scene Two

Narrator:One day, the Lord, in the ecstasy of the gopis, was chanting "gopi, gopi!!"

Nimai:Gopi, gopi, gopi!

Student 1:Why are You chanting the name "gopi, gopi," instead of the Holy Name of Krishna which is so glorious? What pious result will You achieve by such chanting? I think You definitely need oil on Your head. What will You gain by chanting "gopi, gopi?"

Nimai: O Krsna! You rascal, You have stolen My heart and will not give it back! And now, this foolish Brahmana is telling me not to glorify You!
(to student) How dare you speak like that?! Today I shall beat you with My stick!
(Nimai Pandit picks up a stick and chases the Student offstage.)

Scene Three

1st Student: Did you hear what Nimai Pandit did today?

2nd Student: What did He do?

1st Student: Well, I was walking past the house of Nimai Pandit and heard Him chanting "Gopi! Gopi!" instead of the names of Krsna! When I questioned

him about this, He became angry and He began to rebuke Lord Krsna in very severe tones and then ...

2nd Student: What did He do then?

1st Student: He jumped up and chased me! Me, a Brahmana ! With a stick! He could have created a serious offense but, just then, His associate caught hold of Him and, calming Him, took Him somewhere else.
(Students become angry.)

2nd Student: Nimai Pandit has alone spoiled the entire country.

3rd Student: He wants to strike a caste Brahmana!

4th Student: He has no fear of religious principles!

2ND Student: If He again attempts such an atrocious act then we should retaliate and strike Him in turn!

5th Student: Who is He, an important person, that He dares to check us in this way?

4th Student: The others will want to hear of this; let's go and find them!
(The students leave and come back with an angry father)

Scene Four

Brahmana: (to Nimai Pandit) Why are you chasing the Brahmana students like this? You should show them Your mercy. They are simply young boys! Do You have no shame? How dare You lift a stick to strike the body of a brahmana boy? You have no fear that You are going to break the religious principles. If You ever dare to raise Your voice or a stick to these boys again, we will all get together and strike You! (He leaves.)

Narrator: Nimai Pandit could understand the degradation of these students because He is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He wanted to rescue these poor caste Brahmanas from the snares of Impersonalism and so meditated on ways to increase their receptivity to Him.

Nimai Pandit: All the so-called professors and scientists and their students generally follow the regulative principles of religion, fruitive activities and austerities, yet, at the same time, they are blasphemers and rogues. If I do not induce them to take to devotional service, because of committing the offense

of blasphemy, none of these people will be able to take to it. I have come to deliver all the fallen souls, but now just the opposite has happened. How can these rogues be delivered? How may they be benefitted? If these rogues offer me obeisances, the reactions of their sinful activities will be nullified. Then, if I induce them, they will take to devotional service. I must certainly deliver all these fallen souls who blaspheme Me and do not offer Me obeisances. I must accept the renounced order of life, sanyassa for thus people will offer Me their obeisances. This will relieve them of all the reactions to their offenses. Then, by My grace, devotional service, bhakti, will awaken in their pure hearts.

Somehow or other, I must engage the Brahmana students in My service. Because they do not respect householders and Vaisnavas, they do not hear My teachings. Generally, the Vaisnavas do not take sanyassa but if I were to take Sanyassa they would automatically bow down to Me due to their family upbringing.